



F-35 Joint Program Office

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Auto-GCAS Team Wins Prestigious Award

By Giancarlo Casem, 412th Test Wing Public Affairs

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. -- The National Aeronautic Association announced that the Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System Team as the recipients of the 2018 Robert J. Collier Trophy. The trophy will be formally presented at a dinner event in Washington D.C. in June.

"I am so proud of the entire Auto GCAS Team and their commitment and dedication to saving lives through this revolutionary technology," said Mark Wilkins, Senior Aviation Safety Analyst, Office of Secretary of Defense for Personnel Readiness and Safety. "We are truly honored to be recognized with such a prestigious award and deeply humbled considering the aviation greats who won previously."

The Collier Trophy is awarded for what the Collier Trophy Selection Committee considers the greatest achievement in aeronautics or astronautics in the U.S., with respect to improving the performance, efficiency, and safety of air or space vehicles. The committee is comprised of 30 aviation and aerospace professionals and heard presentations from 10 other nominees. The Collier Trophy is housed at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

"I want to congratulate the Auto GCAS team on winning the 2018 Collier Trophy," said Greg Principato, President and CEO, NAA. "The Collier Trophy was established more than a century ago to encourage the best minds in this country to continually find ways to advance and improve aviation."

The Auto GCAS team comprises representatives from Lockheed-Martin, the U.S. Air Force, the F-35 Joint Program Office, NASA and the Defense Safety Oversight Council. The team is credited for successfully completing a rapid design, integration, and flight test of critical, lifesaving technology for the worldwide F-35 fleet. Auto-GCAS is a technology designed to save a pilot from crashing into the ground in the event of a sudden loss of consciousness or target fixation.

Principato said the team, "is a sterling example of a project that brought together the best minds from many disciplines. The result is a game-changing advance in safety that has already changed military aviation and can one day change the game for everyone."

Members of the F-35 Integrated Task Force at Edwards Air Force Base, California, was notified of their achievement earlier in April. Lt. Col. Tucker Hamilton, 461st Flight Test Squadron commander and F-35 ITF director, addressed his team and thanked them for their work.

"We do not strive and pour our hearts into our work to win some award. It's always been about the warfighter and our impactful work in delivering capability to the battlefield," Hamilton told them.

"However, I'm glad the efforts you put in each and every day have been recognized at such a high level, it is so deserving."

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